

TOWN OF WEBSTER

SOLAR PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY MARCH 23, 2021

The Solar Project Subcommittee held a virtual meeting on Tuesday March 23, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

Subcommittee members present: David Hemenway (Chairperson), Craig Fournier, Martin Bender, Daniel Nudd, Betsy Janeway, Susan Rauth.

Also, present: Dana Hadley (Town Administrator), Russell Tatro (Land Use Coordinator), Dominic Lebel, Benjamin Chamberlain, Michael Caplin, Dan White, Suzanne Fournier.

Chairperson Hemenway opened the March 23, 2021 Solar Project Subcommittee meeting at 7:07pm and took attendance.

Chairperson Hemenway announced that Olivewood Energy had agreed to do a site walk with the Subcommittee and more details would be coming in the future. The purpose of the visit would be to walk the bounds of the project with the Chairs of the Towns Board and Committees. Dominic Lebel, the representative from Olivewood Energy, stated that they hoped that the group would be limited due to health concerns and they were tentatively scheduling the walk in May.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the first item on the agenda, approval of draft minutes.

MOTION: David Hemenway

To approve the minutes from 1/26/21 as amended

SECOND: Susan Rauth

DAVID HEMENWAY – YES

ELIZABETH JANEWAY – ABSTAIN

CRAIG FOURNIER – YES

MARTIN BENDER – YES

DANIEL NUDD – YES

SUSAN RAUTH – YES

The motion passed 5 to 0 with 1 abstaining.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item of the agenda, the map presentation from Olivewood Energy.

Mr. Lebel began by giving a brief history of the project up to this date. He then went over progress since the public hearing on December 12, 2020. Olivewood Energy is currently working on reimbursement agreement with the Town, visual analysis field work, geotechnical investigation for array sites, wetland delineations, historical/cultural resource discussion, endangered species analysis and creating the maps the Town had asked for. He proceeded to show the updated maps to the committee. The map showed the potential array areas, flood plains, wetlands, vernal pools, substation location, and land that had not been designated yet. He explained that they did not plan to use all the proposed array area, and the exact array locations would be determined in the future.

He then went over the future steps for the project. The short-term steps would be finalizing the reimbursement agreement with the town and the proposed site walk. Olivewood planned to continue to help the Town with the MOU process. Ongoing steps for the project would be continuing to consult with agencies, development of the construction/operational parameters and process. Olivewood plans to continue to reach out to neighbors and stakeholders. Olivewoods long-term goals were completing the

1 MOU and submitting the application to the SEC. Mr. Lebel emphasized that there would be many future
2 opportunities public input and stated he was happy to answer any questions.
3

4 Chairperson Hemenway stated that the reimbursement agreement was currently going through legal
5 review. He also stated that there would be additional public hearings regarding the project in the future.
6 He then opened the floor for questions.
7

8 Craig Fournier commented that he lives on Deer Meadow Rd and stated that the wetlands delineation
9 looked correct. He asked if Olivewood would have enough array space for the proposed project. Mr.
10 Lebel stated it would. Mr. Fournier asked who owned the northeast property and how it was to be
11 accessed. Mr. Lebel responded that the land was currently owned by Horizon Holding. Olivewood
12 planned to use the existing access road near the transmission lines owned by National Grid. Mr. Fournier
13 asked who owned the current access road to the east. Mr. Lebel stated that was owned by Dan White. Mr.
14 Fournier asked what the agreement between Mr. White and Olivewood Energy was. Mr. White stated
15 there was no agreement. Mr. Lebel emphasized that Olivewood planned to use the access road owned by
16 National Grid.
17

18 Daniel Nudd asked how Olivewood would plan to connect the powerlines across the properties. Mr. Lebel
19 stated that the current plan was to get easements and was currently working with the landowners.
20 Chairperson Hemenway asked if the connections were going to be pole and line or underground. Mr.
21 Lebel responded that they were still working on the details. Susan Rauth asked for clarification over what
22 type of wetlands the connections would be crossing. Mr. Lebel stated it was a brook.
23

24 Ms. Rauth asked for clarification on the red areas. Mr. Lebel responded that the red areas are the outline
25 of the total parcels and the blue area are potential development areas.
26

27 Betsy Janeway expressed frustration in not being able to connect the map and lot numbers to the area
28 designated on the map. Mr. Lebel stated Olivewood energy would work to get her further information.
29

30 Ms. Rauth asked what the wetland consultants were looking for on the map. Mr. Lebel stated that the
31 agreement the Town created with the consultant would lay out those details and work with the consultant
32 to address the concerns the consultant identified.
33

34 Chairperson Hemenway asked for the total acreage of the project and the acreage of the panel area. The
35 total project area was 614 acres and they estimated using 265 acres for panels. Martin Bender asked how
36 many panels Olivewood expected to use for the project. Benjamin Chamberlain, a representative from
37 Olivewood Energy, estimated around 175,000 panel modules. Mr. Bender asked why the alternating
38 current was in the north part of the project and the direct current was in the south part of the project. Mr.
39 Chamberlain stated that the inverters were spaced around the project to convert the energy from direct
40 current to alternating current.
41

42 Mr. Nudd asked for clarification on the megawattage of the project. Mr. Lebel responded they planned on
43 a 75-megawatt project. Mr. Nudd asked if the power would be staying in NH. Mr. Lebel responded
44 Olivewood Energy wanted the electricity to stay in NH, but State regulations did not make it easy.
45 Michael Chaplin, a representative from Olivewood, stated some of the neighboring states had tools to do
46 this but New Hampshire did not have those process yet. Olivewood Energy was working on several ways
47 that were available to keep the power in NH, but physics would ultimately determine where the power
48 went. Mr. Fournier asked they had a long-term agreement with a utility provider. Mr. Chaplin stated that
49 was expected to happen. Chairperson Hemenway stated that the Energy Committee will also be working
50 on a community power agreement.
51

1 Dan White asked if Olivewood Energy had received feedback on the Soil study regarding stumps. Mr.
2 Chaplain stated that there was nothing that came up regarding stumps that would render an area
3 unsuitable. Mr. White asked if they would be sharing the studies. Mr. Chaplain responded that they would
4 be part of the permit application.

5
6 Suzanne Fournier asked if Olivewood Energy could tell the public what endangered species were reported
7 in the area. Mr. Chaplain stated that they had that information and were working on how to avoid
8 impacting them. He listed off a few species and stated that this would be part of a wildlife assessment
9 through NH Fish and Game.

10
11 Mr. White asked about the buffer and if they had looked at the snowmobile trail. Mr. Lebel stated that
12 they intended to continue snowmobile access in the area, and they planned to work with the State's Trail
13 Master.

14
15 Chairperson Hemenway asked if Olivewood Energy could give a list of the studies that would be
16 provided next. Mr. Lebel expected the economic impact, sound, and visual reports soon. They were also
17 working on the construction plans and decommissioning plans. Mr. Chaplain stated some item had been
18 taking longer than expected but the next report would be for Wildlife Assessment. Chairperson
19 Hemenway asked when the Town might see more of the civil engineering design. Mr. Chaplain stated
20 they were still needed feedback from the Town and the results from the wildlife assessment before they
21 could start creating plans.

22
23 Chairperson Hemenway thanked Olivewood Energy for making the presentation. The representatives
24 from Olivewood Energy thanked the Town for all the feedback.

25
26 Chairperson Hemenway moved to scheduling the next meeting. The Board scheduled the next meeting for
27 April 20, 2021 at 7:00pm. Mr. Lebel requested that each Board nominate one person to represent each
28 Board at the site walk.

29
30 **MOTION:** David Hemenway
31 ***To adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm***

32 **SECOND:** Elizabeth Janeway
33 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**
34 **ELIZEBETH JANEWAY – YES**

35 **SUZAN RAUTH – YES**
36 **CRAIG FOURNIER – YES**

37 **MARTIN BENDER – YES**
38 **DANIEL NUDD - YES**

39 **The motion passed 6 to 0**

40
41 *Minutes taken by Russell Tatro*